CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 15 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE "CAIRO DECLARATION ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY (THE TREATY OF PELINDABA)"

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the "Cairo Declaration adopted on the occasion of the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Treaty of Pelindaba)" on 11 April 1996.

I would be most grateful to you if this document could be issued and distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Mounir Zahran
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.96-61066 (E)

THE CAIRO DECLARATION

Adopted on the occasion of the Signature of the
African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba)

The African states signatories of the African Nuclear-Weapon Free-Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba), meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its first ordinary session held in Cairo in 1964,

Recalling also the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and government of the organization of African Unity at its thirty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 26 to 28 June 1995, of the final text of the Treaty,

Recalling further United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995, by which the Assembly welcomed the Adoption by the African leaders of the final text of the Treaty,

Recognizing the valuable contribution that the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific and South East Asia have made to the process of nuclear non-proliferation,

Stressing the importance of promoting regional and international cooperation for the development of Nuclear Energy for peaceful purposes in the interest of sustainable social and economic development of the African Continent,

Solemnly declare that the signing of the Treaty further consolidates global efforts towards the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons including the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is a highly significant contribution to the enhancement of international peace and security;

Invite the African states to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that it can enter into force without delay;

Call upon the Nuclear-Weapon States as well as the States contemplated in Protocol III to sign and ratify the relevant Protocols to the Treaty as soon as possible;

Emphasize that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security;

Call upon all those States who have not yet done so to adhere to the NPT;

Call upon the Nuclear Weapon States to actively pursue the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world as embodied in article VI of the NPT, through the urgent negotiation of agreements with effective measures of verification towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible time;

Decide that the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty shall be held not later than one year after its entry into force, and endorse the establishment of the headquarters of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in South Africa;

Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with resolution 50/78, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 12 December 1995, to provide the necessary assistance in 1996 in order to achieve the aims of the present declaration.

Cairo, 11 April 1996

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